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NEWS RELEASE

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Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced the conviction today of John Woodward Ickes, Jr., age 34, of Chesterfield County, Virginia. Following a bench trial, Senior United States District Judge Richard L. Williams convicted Ickes of transporting child pornography across state lines from Virginia to Detroit, Michigan. Judge Williams scheduled Ickes sentencing for November 6, 2003, at 3:30 p.m.

The evidence at trial included testimony from U.S. Customs Inspectors in Detroit, Michigan, who came into contact with the defendant as he entered the United States from Canada. They became suspicious of the defendant when viewing a tape in the defendant's van, which ostensibly depicted a tennis match but repeatedly focused on a young ball boy at the match. An inspection of the defendant's van, which was loaded with the defendant's personal belongings, revealed photo albums containing child pornography. Inspectors confirmed Ickes's identity and discovered there were arrest warrants for him from Chesterfield County, Virginia, on outstanding charges for aggravated sexual abuse of two young children. A further search of CD-ROMs contained in the defendant's van uncovered child pornography movies that Ickes had produced himself using those two Chesterfield County children.

Also announcing the conviction is Donald W. Thompson, Jr., Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Richmond Field Division.

The case was investigated by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The case was prosecuted for the United States by Assistant United States Attorney Brian R. Hood.

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